

Government of the District of Columbia
Department of Transportation



May 14, 2015

Mr. Shane Farthing
Executive Director, Washington Area Bicyclists Association
2599 Ontario Rd., NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Farthing:

Thank you for your outreach regarding bicycle safety on Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest. We share your concern for the safety of cyclists in this area and recognize the hazard associated with illegal U-turns by motorists that cross the designated bicycle lane.

Following extensive formal observation of the traffic patterns on this segment of Pennsylvania Avenue NW, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has determined that low-profile barriers are effective at discouraging drivers from making illegal U-turns. As a result of these findings and the recent accidents in this area, DDOT will install more protective wheel-stop barriers along this segment of Pennsylvania Avenue, beginning May 15, 2015.

Over the next year, DDOT will continue to monitor the efficacy of these barriers and to examine new methods to enhance the safety of bicyclists on Pennsylvania Avenue. DDOT has initiated a study to determine whether there are locations in this area where legal u-turns may be permitted safely.

These actions are all in step with Mayor Muriel Bowser's commitment to Vision Zero, an initiative to end all transportation-related deaths and serious injuries in the District by 2024.

Thank you and your members for your proactive efforts to enhance the safety and accessibility of bicycle travel in the District. Please direct any additional questions or concerns to Keith St. Clair, DDOT's Acting Communications Director, at 202-671-5124 or Keith.StClair@dc.gov.

Sincerely,



for Leif A. Dormsjo
Director